KATE BROWN SECRETARY OF STATE



SECRETARY OF STATE 136 STATE CAPITOL SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722 PHONE 503-986-1523

Monday, August 25, 2014

Tom Wheeler Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

My name is Kate Brown. I have been a legislator in Oregon since 1991, and currently serve as Oregon's Secretary of State, a position I've held since 2008. It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is taking comments from the public on the proposed merger between Comcast, Time Warner and Charter Cable. I write this letter to voice my support for Comcast's effort to promote positive social change, decrease the digital divide, and expand access to broadband for low income families.

As Secretary of State here in Oregon, one of my goals is to identify and support companies that use business as a tool to promote positive social change. I can tell you from personal experience that Comcast is committed to such change. There are several projects Comcast and NBC Universal sponsor and support statewide - including Comcast Cares Day, Big Brothers Big Sisters Beyond School Walls Program, and Education Nation, to name a few.

Comcast is also on the front-lines of the battle to decrease the digital divide and provide access to broadband for low-income families that have disproportionate access. One of the most significant ways that Comcast is fulfilling its mission to increase America's digital literacy is through its Internet Essentials Program - a program that provides affordable access to qualifying families. In 2011, I attended and spoke at the program kick-off event, which Comcast held at Roosevelt High School in Portland, Oregon.

We are proud of Roosevelt High School, which leads the way in promoting digital literacy. Since 2012, every student has been assigned an iPad, and the school has been a trailblazer for instant online access to curriculums and educational tools. However, Roosevelt's success has yet to be fully matched as there are many families that fall under free lunch qualifications in other parts of the state. In the past three years, several thousand Oregon families have taken advantage of the Internet Essentials program for their broadband access. In my capacity as State Secretary, programs such as this give me hope. If the proposed merger is approved, I understand Comcast is committed to bringing its community partnerships and digital literacy programs to Time Warner markets such as New York and Los Angeles but also to the Oregon communities currently served by Charter Cable.

I know that Comcast is committed to promoting positive social change, decreasing the digital divide, and expanding access to broadband for low income families, therefore, I respectfully encourage your approval of the transaction.

Sincerely,

Kate Brown,

Secretary of State, Oregon